

**2015 APPROVED  
WORK PLAN AND MEETING SCHEDULE  
for the  
LEGISLATIVE HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE  
and the  
DISABILITIES CONCERNS SUBCOMMITTEE**

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**Work Plan**

The Legislative Health and Human Services Committee (LHHS) was established pursuant to Section 2-13-1 NMSA 1978. It is charged with undertaking a continuing study of the programs, agencies, policies, issues and needs relating to health and human services in the state. The LHHS will cover the following topics during the 2015 interim.

**Children and Families**

The LHHS has established children and families as a major area of focus during the 2015 interim.

The LHHS will hear Secretary of Children, Youth and Families Monique Jacobson's vision for the Children, Youth and Families Department (CYFD) and the CYFD's strategic plan.

In conjunction with the Courts, Corrections and Justice Committee, the LHHS will hold a summit on juvenile justice regarding children at risk, teen violence and the efficacy of several juvenile justice models and facilities, including the New Mexico "Cambiar" model, the Missouri model, the Sierra Blanca facility and the Sequoyah Lodge. The LHHS will invite local and national stakeholders and experts from all three branches of government and the private sector. After the summit, the LHHS will seek to visit juvenile justice facilities and review proposals made at the juvenile justice summit for possible legislative action.

The LHHS will examine services for families where there is a risk or reports of child abuse or neglect. The LHHS will also examine early childhood programming and the accreditation of and access to child care and supportive housing services. The LHHS will explore issues relating to domestic violence and teen pregnancy. In addition, the LHHS will review the latest recommendations from the J. Paul Taylor Task Force on child well-being.

### **Corrections Health Care**

With the passage of Senate Memorial 132 and Senate Bill 42 in the 2015 regular session, the LHHS will hold a corrections health care summit to hear testimony from the Corrections Health Care Task Force, the Corrections Department, the counties and the Human Services Department (HSD) relating to the quality and cost of corrections health care and maximizing Medicaid funds. This review will also entail an examination of policies such as "compassionate release" and medical release as well as the care of elderly, disabled and chronically ill inmates. Also at the corrections health care summit, the LHHS will hear testimony relating to 2015's Senate Joint Memorial 4, which requests reporting from the New Mexico Association of Counties on services for mentally ill individuals awaiting trial.

### **Health Care Delivery and Health Care Work Force**

The LHHS will continue its oversight of policy and programming to track and increase the number and distribution of health care professionals statewide, including incentives for increasing the "pipeline" of recruits and attracting and retaining health care professionals.

The LHHS will continue its review of the status of the state's hospital system, including a report on the sustainability of critical access hospitals statewide and the effect of the Safety Net Care Pool in its second year of implementation.

Pursuant to Senate Memorial 136 from the 2015 regular session, a task force made up of dentists, dental hygienists, dental therapy advocates and other stakeholders has been requested to provide the LHHS with a report of the task force's findings and recommendations related to the feasibility of establishing dental therapy in the state.

2015's House Memorial 33 requests that the Legislative Finance Committee (LFC) and the Department of Health (DOH) study uncompensated health care in the state. The LHHS will hear reporting pursuant to House Memorial 33.

Pursuant to recent discussions and legislation proposed to increase patients' ability to compare hospitals for price and quality, the LHHS will examine the possibilities for the safe disclosure of information to these ends, as required pursuant to 2015's Senate Bill 323, as well as outcomes in other states' experiences in increasing hospital pricing transparency and accountability.

The LHHS will receive updates on health information technology and interoperability, including an update from the state's health information exchange.

As the state's population continues to see an increase in the number of individuals over 60 years of age, the issue of access to health and human services resources in rural areas becomes a greater issue. The LHHS will review the availability of these services and care coordination among these services.

### **Medicaid**

The state's Centennial Care Medicaid waiver program is in its second year of implementation. The LHHS will hear updates from Medicaid recipients, Secretary of Human Services Brent Earnest, HSD staff, Medicaid managed care organizations, federal officials and policy experts on the status of Centennial Care.

The LHHS will review Medicaid long-term care, including the HSD's reintroduction of health homes for implementation as part of the Centennial Care program to serve the mostly needy and vulnerable long-term care recipients, the Program of All-Inclusive Care for the Elderly (PACE) and Money Follows the Person.

Tribal health facilities have raised concerns about care coordination in the Centennial Care program. One tribe has conducted a survey of available care coordination services. The LHHS will hear testimony and review any available data related to this issue.

A year after Medicaid eligibility was expanded pursuant to the federal Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (PPACA), the LHHS will review available data on the effects that Medicaid expansion has had on the state's economy, health care demographics, health care facilities and health care costs.

The LHHS will hear expert testimony on the efficacy and availability of medical, vision and hearing screenings for children as well as early and periodic screening, diagnostic and treatment "EPSDT" services in the state.

Children in New Mexico with household incomes between 185 percent and 235 percent of the federal poverty level (FPL) currently receive coverage through the state's Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP), which receives federal matching funds. Continuation of federal funding for CHIP depends on whether the U.S. Congress reauthorizes these funds in 2015. The LHHS will review this matter during the interim, including its implications for keeping this population of children covered.

The U.S. Supreme Court has recently issued a decision that holds that providers of goods and services to a state Medicaid program cannot recover from the program for reimbursement rates that they claim to be inadequate. The LHHS will hear expert testimony on the implications of that decision.

The LHHS will review any developments and other states' experiences with a pediatric dental health care pilot program, which was the subject of recently introduced legislation.

There are a number of issues related to Medicaid managed care that the LHHS will review this interim, including matters related to network adequacy and transparency, state oversight and compliance with new model regulations.

### **Health Coverage**

The LHHS will hear expert testimony relating to the benefits and services that health plans must cover and enrollee responsibilities pursuant to the PPACA, especially as they relate to preventive services and screenings, benefits and services related to women and reproductive health and "balance billing" practices.

The LHHS will continue its review of health insurance provider network adequacy, including information related to other states' responses to network challenges.

The New Mexico Health Insurance Exchange has just ended its second open-enrollment season. The LHHS will receive updates as to the exchange's progress in establishing an infrastructure and increasing access to health coverage. The committee will also hear testimony related to the United States Supreme Court's June 25, 2015 decision in *King v. Burwell*, relating to the constitutionality of the provision of federal subsidies for qualified health plan purchasers through federally operated health insurance marketplaces, and what *Burwell* means for the New Mexico Health Insurance Exchange.

The PPACA provisions requiring large employers to offer affordable health coverage to their employees are now in effect. The LHHS will review the effect that those provisions are having on employers and employees statewide.

The LHHS will hear testimony from experts on the experience of the states of New York and Minnesota in implementing a basic health program pursuant to the PPACA to offer

affordable health insurance coverage to individuals whose household income exceeds the Medicaid eligibility maximum of 138 percent of the FPL and 200 percent of the FPL.

Since its recent establishment, the Office of Superintendent of Insurance has undertaken enhanced health insurance oversight and consumer advocacy functions and has proposed a number of technical and substantive changes to the New Mexico Insurance Code. In addition, the passage of 2015's Senate Bill 3 (Chapter 11) entails changes to the procedures and laws pertaining to the superintendent of insurance's appointment and oversight. The LHHS will review these matters this interim.

### **Human Services**

States such as Utah have implemented "housing first" programs to address homelessness. The LHHS will hear testimony from Utah lawmakers and experts on the efficacy of this approach as well as testimony on the feasibility of combining a plurality of housing programs and providing services such as mobile shower services to homeless individuals.

In light of newly proposed HSD rules relating to employment and training requirements for some recipients of the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, also known as "SNAP" or "Food Stamps", the LHHS will hold a hearing to hear stakeholder testimony.

The LHHS will hear testimony from a panel regarding programming in the state related to food and nutrition and access to healthy foods.

The LHHS will receive an update from the HSD on its use of federal Community Services Block Grant funds.

The LHHS will receive a report from the New Mexico Family Caregiver Task Force. Pursuant to 2014's House Joint Memorial 4, this task force is requested to examine resources and programs for family caregivers to elderly and disabled New Mexicans.

The LHHS will renew its inquiry into the status of adult protective services and protection from elder abuse and exploitation, hearing LFC staff testimony and examining programs at the Aging and Long-Term Services Department, the Office of the Attorney General and senior service agencies, as well as other states' work in this area.

The LHHS will seek an update from the Workforce Solutions Department relating to its administration of unemployment compensation and job training programs. The LHHS will also review a proposal to reduce some unemployment compensation benefits.

### **Public Health**

The LHHS proposes to take another look at the state's ongoing substance dependence crisis, especially as it relates to misuse and dependence on prescription drugs. This review will include the state's options to take advantage of the federal Drug Enforcement Agency's new rules

to allow for more entities to recover unused prescriptions, the Board of Pharmacy's Prescription Drug Monitoring Program, the DOH and the University of New Mexico's reporting pursuant to 2015's House Memorial 98 related to chronic pain and overdose and the state's options for halting the overprescribing of controlled substances.

The LHHS will request that the DOH provide an update to the committee on implementation of the 2014-2016 strategic plan, its public health surveillance indicators report and its efforts to attain public health accreditation and combat hepatitis C statewide.

The LHHS will request an update on the state's Medical Cannabis Program, with testimony from the DOH, producers, enrollees and experts on the program and on some of the practical barriers that enrollees and producers face, as well as funding for the program.

With the removal of the New Mexico Health Policy Commission and the University of New Mexico-Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Center for Health Policy as sources of health care analysis in the state, the LHHS will examine options for establishing or reinvigorating entities with the capacity to provide this analysis.

The LHHS will hear an update on health care services for Native Americans living off-reservation, including local efforts and promising practices from other states.

The LHHS will also hear testimony related to diabetes and its effect on the state, the potential for establishing an all-payer claims database, the statewide nurse advice line, vaccinations, sexual assault services and the public health effects of "vaping" or electronic cigarette use.

### **Native American Health**

The LHHS will hold a joint meeting with the Indian Affairs Committee at Kewa Pueblo on October 5, 2015 to cover matters relating to Native American health.

### **Health and Human Services Contracting**

Pursuant to House Memorial 129 (2015 Regular Session), the committee shall study ways in which the state contracts with nonprofit organizations for some health care and human services. The committee will examine how these contracts and contracting processes meet state programmatic needs and how the state may maximize the benefits to both the state and nonprofit organizations.

### **Behavioral Health**

The LHHS will monitor access to behavioral health services statewide. It will review the strategic plan for the Behavioral Health Services Division of the HSD and receive updates on related litigation and program integrity activities. The committee will also review data on indicators for mental illness, substance abuse and drug overdose and receive updates on developments at the federal level and in other states relating to behavioral health services.

**Disabilities Concerns Subcommittee**

The Disabilities Concerns Subcommittee of the LHHS was established pursuant to Section 2-13-3.1 NMSA 1978 and is charged with a continuing study of the programs, agencies, policies, issues and needs relating to individuals with disabilities. During the 2015 interim, the Disabilities Concerns Subcommittee will monitor access to services for persons with disabilities throughout the state, receive testimony related to the federal Achieving a Better Life Experience or "ABLE" Act, receive updates on related litigation and program integrity activities and receive updates on developments at the federal level and in other states relating to services for persons with disabilities, including autism. The subcommittee is to provide a report and recommendations to the LHHS before the conclusion of the LHHS's interim.

**Legislative Health and Human Services Committee  
2015 Approved Meeting Schedule**

<u>Date</u>	<u>Location</u>
June 5	Santa Fe Organizational Meeting
July 15	Las Cruces — New Mexico State University
July 16-17	Las Cruces — La Clinica de Familia
August 24-25	Ruidoso
August 26-27	Roswell
September 21-22	Albuquerque
September 23	Albuquerque — Juvenile Justice Summit/Joint Meeting with Courts, Corrections and Justice Committee
September 24	Albuquerque
October 5	Kewa Pueblo — Joint Meeting with Indian Affairs Committee
October 6-7	Santa Fe
October 19-21	Santa Fe
November 16-18	Santa Fe

**Disabilities Concerns Subcommittee  
2015 Approved Meeting Schedule**

<u>Date</u>	<u>Location</u>
August 28	Roswell
September 25	Albuquerque
October 22	Santa Fe